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## **State increases funding for bovine tuberculosis testing to protect residents' health and farmers' livelihoods**

**LANSING** – Michigan will see increased testing of bovine tuberculosis thanks to funding included in the state Department of Agriculture budget, Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, announced today.

The funding for testing will include both whole herd and individual animals in the “split state” portion of Northern Michigan. Usually, states are prohibited from selling and shipping any cattle out of the state if there have been cases of bovine TB. Michigan has been granted special “split state” status since the bovine TB has been contained and regular testing continues.

“It is uncalled for to penalize farmers when there is nothing wrong with their cattle,” Stamas said. “Providing more funding for bovine tuberculosis testing just makes sense.”

The counties included in the target area are: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle. Also, portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties that are north of the southernmost boundaries of the Huron National Forest and the Au Sable State Forest also are included.

“Passing the agriculture budget with this funding included means a great deal to the farmers in the 36th Senate District,” Stamas said.

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